FAMILY LIFE

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PARENT EDUCATION, AROUND THE WORLD

Since the end of World War II, at least 45 countries have written into their Constitutions explicit references to the welfare of mothers and children. Many of them have cabinet ministers for family affairs. The importance of well-prepared parenthood has become more and more widely and explicitly recognized. Some countries have developed both popular interest and public machinery for this purpose; others have depended more on voluntary action of parents to get the help they want, which they no longer learn automatically in childhood and youth from their own parents to the extent that they once did.

To survey and encourage this "movement," the first world congress was convened in 1955 in Zagreb, Croatia, Yugoslavia, by the International Union for Child Welfare; it has been followed by others. In the same year 1955 the UNESCO Institute for Education, with headquarters in Hamburg, Germany, undertook to study progress in this field. An enormous amount of material was collected, which has been digested by Dr. H. H. Stern of the Institute of Education of the University of Hull, England, and now appears as a joint production in a monograph of 163 pages, which almost defies summarization because itself is a highly concentrated summary. It gives a picture of parent education all over the world, which will be new to students in every country who are rarely familiar with what is going on in their field elsewhere. The work carried on under a variety of names merges into sex education, marriage preparation, marriage guidance, mother and child welfare, social casework, and other activities.

The survey makes it clear that the same kind of problems have arisen everywhere. Special attention is paid to four countries: U.S.A., France, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the United Kingdom.

"Parent education in the U.S.A. has stood the test of time and continues to be a vigorous and spontaneous movement, perhaps chastened by severe—and probably not always unjustified—criticism," the report concludes. Its orientation is mainly psychological, as is also the case in France. "The characteristic feature of German parent education, exemplified by schools for mothers, is the refusal

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to separate psychological, educational, medical, and practical housecraft aspects from one another, but to treat them as part of one integrated whole, family welfare;" indeed, the German procedure is described as "an almost completely non-psychological form of parent education." In the United Kingdom "parent education does not exist in an organised form;" there is no widespread public demand for it; "there is much caution and scepticism;" in spite of which a great deal of advice and information for parents are available.

There is a general trend, the report believes, toward shifting emphasis "from recommending methods of child care and teaching child development, to sex education, preparation for marriage guidance." In this connection it describes the service of the American Institute of Family Relations in some detail.

What are the actual achievements of parent education — described in some detail in the four countries above mentioned, and somewhat more briefly in nine others. "Unfortunately, hardly any studies have been carried out with the object in view to assess the results dispassionately . . . Yet the kind of descriptive terms that came up again and again in the reports were: half-hearted, disjointed, unco-ordinated, sporadic, and superficial."

The opinion has gained ground that the "correctness" of parents' views and attitudes and the details of the procedures are less important in child-rearing than the impact of the total personality on the process of child upbringing. "Above all, the influence of marital relations is regarded as important. That tensions between husband and wife, family discord or divorce can affect childen is confirmed by studies of delinquent, maladjusted, and backward children. Many workers in parent education are of the opinion that the personal relationships between the parents and the atmosphere created by them is more important than the details of child care practices. It has been pointed out that marriage guidance in case of some marriage difficulty functions at the same time as parent education."

"In this very broadly conceived adult education the traditional techniques of the lecture room and class room are not obsolete, but they are not regarded as sufficient. Individual and group psychotherapy, the experiments and observations of social psychology, the experience of mass teaching and mass communication suggest different possibilities of an educational approach and a concept of education which is dependent on neither a full-time teacher, nor a full-time pupil, nor even a special place called a school. Seen in this wider perspective the various experiments on parent education which have been described may appear more promising than is sometimes thought. And if, in addition, they are recognized as complementary rather than as exclusively right or wrong approaches, it may be possible, in this field of educational trial and error, to

avoid many fruitless arguments and conflicts."

PARENT EDUCATION: an international survey, by H. H. Stern. Pp. 163 (paper covers, no index), price 6 shillings from Institute of Education, University of Hull, 173 Cottingham Road, Hull, England, 1960.

Notes from the AIFR

FOLLOWING OFFICERS were elected for the ensuing year, at the Institute's annual meeting on March 10:
Chairman of the Board, Paul E. Lloyd.
President, Paul Popenoe.
Vice-president, Mrs. W. A. Morrison.
Secretary, Clem Glass.
Treasurer, W. W. Cottle.

DURING the past year, the Institute gave intensive training to 24 persons wishing to learn the techniques which we use. The majority were clergymen. The Institute's course of training covers one academic year and is open to persons who are happily married, have a graduate degree in some related field, and possess the necessary personal qualifications.

HOW TO MAKE A STUDENT CODE is an important and popular inquiry among parents, teachers, and high school students alike A full discussion and detailed description of the process was published in the October, 1959, issue of *Family Life*. Extra copies of this are obtainable at 10c each.

FAMILY DEPARTMENT of the Institute is presenting a survey of play therapy and related techniques, in weekly sessions which began March 2 and will continue on Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m., ending on April 27. Each session is led by a different expert, and the series is open to teachers, guidance workers, and other professionals.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL marriage and family counseling workshop will be held at the Institute during the two weeks July 31 through August 12 with a distinguished faculty of 18 leaders. Participants interested in getting graduate credit from accredited colleges will be able to receive two units in sociology from Chapman College or three units in psychology from Pepperdine College. Detailed program and full particulars may be had on application to the AIFR. Early registration is desirable, as the number participating must be limited.

YOU CAN FALL IN LOVE IF YOU WANT TO is one of the Institute's popular pamphlets which has been out of print for some time. A new edition is now available at 10c. It deals with the problem of the man or woman who seems to find it impossible to find a marriage partner, because of fears, inhibitions, or wrong values; and gives detailed plans for overcoming such obstacles.

Inexpensive Pamphlets

STEADY DATE and the school girl marriage rate, by Ben Solomon. Pp. 13, price $1 from Youth Service, Inc., Putnam Valley, N.Y. — With this mimeographed and compact bulletin is included "Smoking and teenagers." The author is a well-known lecturer and editor of *Youth Leaders Digest*.

PROPRIETARY NURSING HOMES— a report on interviews with 35 nursing home operators in Detroit, Mich. Pp. 42, free on request to Health Infor-

mation Foundation, 420 Lexington ave., New York 17, N.Y.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF HANDICAPPED HOMEMAKERS, list of films, publications, and exhibits, free on request to School of Home Economics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn.

WHEN YOUR ADOLESCENT RESISTS WORK AND STUDY, by Jerome Count. Pp. 18, price 50c from Work Education Foundation. P.O. Box 1149-F, Pittsfield, Mass.

THE ATTORNEY'S PART IN ADOPTION, Pp. 12, price 10c from Supt. of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. (Catalog No. FS 3.210:47.)

TOWARD A CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING of sex, love, marriage. A first report of the commission on Christian marriage and divorce, approved by the 19th general council of the United Church of Canada, Pp. 65, price 40c from Literature Distribution Center, 299 Queen st. West, Toronto 2B, Ont., Canada.

PROGRAMS FOR OLDER PEOPLE, Pp. 71, price 60c from Supt. of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. (Catalog No. Y 3.F.F 31/15:2 P 94/960).

DO YOUR DREAMS MATCH YOUR TALENTS? by Vance Packard. Pp. 42, price 40c from Science Research Associates, 259 E. Erie st., Chicago 11, Ill.

WE NEED 20,000 GUIDANCE COUNSELORS, by Theodore Irwin. Pp. 5, free on request to Coronet Films, Coronet bldg., Chicago 1, Ill.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR CHILD A GOOD START, by Aline B. Auerbach. Pp. 31, price 40c from Child Study Assn. of America, 9 E. 89th st., New York 28, N.Y.

Research Notes

DIVORCE, desertion, and separation of their parents are greater factors in the number of children receiving public child welfare services now than 15 years ago, says the U.S. Children's Bureau. The percentage of children receiving child welfare services because of the death of their parents declined from 23% in 1945 to 14% in 1959. During the same period the children receiving such services because their parents are divorced, separated, or have deserted increased from 24% to 32%.

LOVE is not what it used to be, if popular songs are any criterion. This is the conclusion of Alvin Scodel (Ohio State University) after reviewing the prevalent "lyrics" today and in 1945. The last three decades seem to have been marked by a general depreciation of romantic love in American culture, he concludes,—though admitting the tentative nature of the evidence. His study is published in the Merrill-Palmer Quarterly, Jan. 1, 1961.

ALCOHOLIC males are usually lacking in masculinity, according to a study made by Frederick B. Parker (University of Delaware). Comparing 50 alcoholics with 50 moderate drinkers, he also concludes that alcoholics who come from broken homes have a lower degree of masculinity than those who do not. A majority of the alcoholics were divorced, while only one of the moderate drinkers was divorced; and the alcoholics whose homes were broken showed a significantly lower degree of masculinity than those whose homes were intact. Dr. Parker discusses the possibility that the alcoholic is at least a latent homosexual, but draws no definite conclusion. *(Ameri-*

can Sociological Review, June, 1959.)

SEXUAL INTERCOURSE during the period just before the wedding was reported by 43% of 177 young married women, wives of university students, who were interviewed by Eugene J. Kanin of Purdue and David H. Howard of North Illinois Univ. When both partners were regular church attendants, 28% of the couples had pre-marital intercourse with each other, compared with 61% of the non-churchgoers. Wives who experienced coitus prior to marriage also reported the greatest amount of sexual difficulty during the honeymoon period, which the researchers think is probably due to their higher expectations of immediate postmarital sexual adjustment. *(American Sociological Review,* Oct., 1958.)

SUICIDE ranks 11th among causes of death in the U.S., and is responsible for more than 18,000 deaths each year, most frequently in Spring. Three-fourths are among males, one-fourth females. The suicide rate in the U.S., nearly 50% higher than that in Canada, is no more than half that recorded in Austria, Hungary, West Germany, and Japan. Among men, firearms and among women, poisoning is the most frequent cause. *(Statistical Bulletin,* Metropolitan Life Ins. Co., Dec., 1960.)

ONE HUNDRED MALE freshman college students were interviewed by sociologist Irving B. Tebor. All stated that they had had no experience of sexual intercourse; 57 thought they would continue in this status until marriage, 47 thought it "likely" that they would not. Statistical differences were found between the two groups: those who expected to enter marriage without sexual experience had higher mean scores on the socialization scale of the California Personality Inventory (i.e., they were more serious, honest, industrious, modest, obliging ,steady, conscientious, responsible, self-denying, and conforming) and also higher scores on the Communality scale (i.e., they were more deliberate, moderate, tactful, reliable, sincere, patient, realistic, honest, and possessed more common sense and better judgment.) *(Family Life Coordinator,* March-June, 1961.)

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Educational Notes

LIST OF FILMS on family relations and child development was prepared by Mildred I. Morgan, Nona M. Goodson, and Ruth J. Dales for the American Home Economics Assn., 1600 Twentieth st., NW., Washington 9, D.C., price 50c.

STUDENTS go to school for the "three R's,," and not for the fourth R—Romance—in the opinion of the Sooke school district in British Columbia, as reported by Canadian newspapers. Officials have issued orders prohibiting handholding and after-school strolls of boys and girls; they are forbidden to sit with each other at lunch time; students can't sit in cars or leave the school grounds without written permission of their parents—not even to cross the street to buy a chocolate bar —and teachers are required to keep a close watch on both buildings and grounds. Chairman of the board of education said the action was brought about by "pressure from parents," but declined to disclose the nature of the complaints.

FAMILY LIFE REFERENCES, a selected bibliography, 1960-61, was prepared by a committee of the Utah

Council on Family Relations and may be had for 50c from Dept. of Human Development and Family Relationships, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

FAMILY LIFE STUDY TOUR of western Europe and Russia, sponsored by Florida State University and offering six units of academic credit in approved cases, will leave New York on June 19 and return on Aug. 18. Details may be had from the leaders, Dr. and Mrs. M. F. Nimkoff, Dept. of sociology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla.

COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOLS may have the unintentional effect of increasing conflict between husband and wife, according to a survey by William H. Marshall. The mother who has a child in such a school has to give a good deal of her own time in participation. While the father is expected to take some part also, he certainly has a much less intimate acquaintance with the proceedings, than does his wife. Mothers reported less agreement with their husbands at the end of the preschool year than at the beginning, on methods of handling certain areas of their child's behavior. This raises the question, in the mind of the investigator, whether "somewhat more harm is being done by mobilizing anxiety or difficulty in the mother-father relationship than good is being done by bringing about any supposed or slight change in the mother-child relationship." Professional workers need to give considerable thought to this possibility, he says. *(Family Life Coordinator,* March-June, 1961.)

SURVEY of all the theological colleges (nine in number) of the United Church of Canada found that none of them gives a course specifically on marriage counseling. Some reference is made to it in courses on pastoral or practical theology.

AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSN. will hold its 44th annual meeting in St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 24-27, 1961. Details may be had from the headquarters, 620 N. Michigan ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

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Around the World

EASY DIVORCE, still common in Egypt, would be made less comfortable by a bill which the Ministry of Social Affairs has introduced in the national assembly. All workingmen, married or single, would be required to pay 1% of their salaries into a fund handled by a "divorce insurance bank," which would provide divorced women with life pensions.

CHILDREN BORN out of wedlock are legally made legitimate by the later marriage of their parents, provided both parents were not married to someone else at the time the child was born. British Parliament has now changed the law to provide that the child shall be legitimized by the later marriage of its parents, no matter what their previous marital status.

CATHOLIC INTRODUCTIONS BUREAU, 22 St. Martin's House, 29 Ludgate Hill, London EC4, England, was organized in 1947 to promote acquaintance between adherents of the church, with a view to marriage. It has been instrumental in bringing about more than 600 weddings. A non-profit enterprise, it is run with the approval of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. Miss Barbara Oddie is the secretary. No application is accepted from a person under 19 years of age.

NEW BOOKS IN BRIEF REVIEW

THE MINISTER AS MARRIAGE COUNSELOR, by Charles William Stewart. Pp. 223, price $4 from Abingdon Press, Nashville 2, Tenn., 1961.

This is the best handbook available to those who want to help people improve their marriages. While directed primarily to Protestant clergymen, it will be equally useful to others. Dr. Stewart (professor of psychology of religion and counseling at the Iliff School of Theology, Denver) emphasizes the fact that marriage counseling is different from personal counseling. Failure to recognize this fact, on the part of psychologists and others trained in personal counseling, is responsible for a great deal of ineffective marriage counseling today, and his emphasis on the difference is welcome. In marriage counseling, he points out, the client is the "relationship" between husband and wife, that is, the marriage. This is not a job for the psychiatrist; it is essentially a "helping operation" among comparatively normal people whose problems can be dealt with on an adjustment level and which do not deal with neurotic dispositions of one or both partners. The author deals not merely with this immediate relationship, but with premarital counseling, with estrangement, divorce, and post-divorce, and with family and group counseling. He urges the formation of pastoral counseling centers in churches, of which there are already many very successful examples, and concludes with a chapter on family life education, arguing that "counseling with few exceptions is a second-best operation," and that preventive and constructive work must be done much earlier. Throughout, Dr. Stewart illustrates his topics with capsule case histories, and provides abundant citations to the growing literature. Since there are something like 40,000,000 husbands and wives in the United States who need marriage counseling, it is obvious that the efforts of a few hundred professional marriage counselors represent not a drop in the bucket but merely one molecule in that drop. The best prospect of getting help for these millions lies in the clergy, some 350,000 in number, and this book should do much to encourage them and improve their competence for this very important work.

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DELINQUENT AND NEUROTIC CHILDREN, by Ivy Bennet. Pp. 352, price $10 from Basic Books, 59 Fourth ave., New York 3, N.Y., 1961.

This is an excellent report of an extensive cross-sectional research on 50 neurotic children and 50 delinquent children. These were matched for (a) sex; (b) I.Q. (within ten points on the Binet) and (c) age (within two years). Being a Ph.D. dissertation, (University College, London), it makes good use of Chi-Square tests of statistical significance to show how the two groups differ, but in readable language.

In general, the study seems to show that (a) neurotic children and delinquent children are two different types, although there are overlapping symptoms and (b) they come from different family structures. The delinquent child tends to come from "broken and unstable homes," whereas the neurotic

child tends to come from the stable, unbroken home. The delinquent's parents were persons who were antisocial or morally unstable, whereas the neurotic child's parents were more stable but neurotic. Delinquent children were as a rule not breast fed or were weaned, or both, very early, often before four months of age. By contrast, neurotic children were most likely breast fed and weaned later. Discipline was more strict for the neurotic child and much more consistent.These findings are in keeping with much of the literature on delinquent children. The early home life of these two groups of children was different in many respects.

Weaknesses in the research are (a) there was no "normal control" group, (b) these one hundred cases were *selected* from one thousand available cases, but not at random, (c) there were no standard socio-psychological tests given to the children or their parents except the Stanford-Binet I.Q. test—data were gathered from interviews only, (d) there is no mention of Sears, *et al,* or of the Cambridge-Summerville study, or other social psychological studies, and (e) the study is limited by its psycho-analytic orientation.

In spite of these research weaknesses this reviewer strongly recommends a wide reading for this book. — C. E. Phillips, M.A.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING IMPERFECT, by John Robert Clarke. Pp. 216 (no index), price $3.50 from David McKay Co., 119 W. 40th st., New York 18, N.Y., 1961.

The American cult of perfectionism —of always wanting to be in style, know everything, do the proper thing —is held up to entertaining ridicule by a California lecturer who has learned how to offer sound philosophy to the public with a sugar coating. Several chapters on love are particularly worth while reading for any one of any age or either sex.

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HOW TO LIVE ON NOTHING, by Joan Ranson Shortney. Pp. 456, price $4.95 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961.

It must be said at once that the title of this book is a great exaggeration. No one can learn from it how to live on nothing. But anyone can learn from it how to live on considerably less than he is presently spending. Not every reader will want to make his "coffee" out of roasted cereal, or his salad from weeds dug out of the lawn—though he might be better off if he did. In a time when "planned obsolescence" and "keeping up with the Joneses" combine to leave a large part of the population perennially in debt, such a book as this by the former editor of *Everywoman's,* a magazine distributed through food markets, should be widely read, studied, and used. Families should find it particularly helpful as a basis for innumerable discussions in Family Council, and in giving the youngsters unlimited ideas and occupations. It deals with clothing, home furnishings, home repairs, inexpensive vacations, health, and ways of sharing with others and giving suitable gifts, even when you have "nothing" to give. Even those who think themselves past masters in the "do it yourself" line will be astonished to discover how much they can learn from Mrs. Shortney.

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LEISURE TIME FOR LIVING AND RE-

TIREMENT, by Margaret E. Mulac. Pp. 273, price $3.95 from Harper & Bros., 49 E. 33d st., New York 16, N.Y., 1961.

Use of leisure time in the later years is determined by what one has learned in earlier years, says the author (recreation director in many different fields), so she begins with those who are still in the prime of life. Her discussion is detailed, specific, and imaginative and should be widely helpful.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT, by Camille Estornelle. Pp. 189, price not stated, (no index)., from Meador Publishing Co., 324 Newbury st., Boston 15, Mass.

Inspirational essays by a psychologist active in counseling and guidance.

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CONOSCERE IL BAMBINO, by Antonio Miotto. Pp. 219 (paper covers, no index), from Istituto "La Casa," Via Mercalli 23, Milan, Italy.

Comprehensive and sensible discussion of infancy, particularly helping to relieve parents of anxieties and fears, and also covering the psychological development of childhood, problems of discipline, and the treatment of such traits as jealousy and aggressiveness.

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SOCIOLOGY OF CRIME, ed. by Joseph S. Roucek. Pp. 551 (no index), price $10 from Philosophical Library, 15 E. 40th st., New York, N.Y., 1961.

Symposium presenting papers from a score of experts; the last two-thirds of the book are given to a discussion of criminology in various foreign countries. Dr. Roucek, an outstanding authority on conditions behind the iron curtain, offers a welcome outline of what is being done in the Soviet Union and its satellites.

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LIVING WITH YOUR TEENAGER, by Simon Glustrom. Pp. 175 (no index), price $3.50 from Bloch Pub. Co., 31 W. 31st st., New York 1, N.Y., 1961.

While this book is "a guide for Jewish parents," it will be found interesting and useful by a much wider circle of readers. Almost any counselor will deal with clients whose background is Jewish, and the suggestions given in this book will be helpful. It will likewise be valuable, of course, in providing a better understanding of the special problems of a large minority group. Rabbi Glustrom (a representative of Conservative Jewry) has much worth-while information and counsel on general problems of adolescence, dating, sexual development and the management of sexual impulses. He is at the Jewish Center of Fair Lawn, N.J.

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CRIME IN AMERICA, ed. by Herbert A. Bloch. Pp. 355 (no index), price $6 from Philosophical Library, 15 E. 40th st., New York 16, N.Y., 1961.

Most of the 23 papers in this book were first read before annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology. Those of particular interest to the study of family life include discussions of child murder, juvenile delinquency, sexual deviation, and the part played by heredity in predisposing to criminal behavior. On the subject last-named Peter P. Lejins, professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, takes a conservative view that constitutional type is unquestionably important, but not decisive except in relation to environmental factors. The last chapter, by Dr. Bloch

(professor of sociology and anthropology at Brooklyn College) is an interesting paper on "The dilemma of American gambling: crime or pastime?"

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TEACHING LEFTHANDED CHILDREN, by Margaret M. Clark. Pp. 44 (no index), price $2.75 from Philosophical Library, 15 E. 40th st., New York, N.Y., 1960.

Left-handers have been increasing in the population in recent years, presumably because of a more "permissive" tendency on the part of parents and teachers. Various counts show 25% to 50% more boys than girls in the group. Since the trait involves some inconvenience in modern life, parents often attempt to make an apparent left-handed child "change over," with more or less success. If this is done very early in life, it is probably desirable. After the child is of school age, it is probably better to let him follow his own preference. Dr. Clark gives in this booklet (much overpriced, since it is really a pamphlet in covers) a brief discussion of the whole subject, emphasizing the teachers problem in helping a left-handed child to write well with the left hand. Her remarks are simple and sensible.

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PLAY ACTIVITIES FOR THE RETARDED CHILD, by Bernice Wells Carlson and David R. Ginglend. Pp. 224, price $4 from Abingdon Press, Nashville 2, Tenn., 1961.

There are in North America literally millions of retarded children who need special help because they are unable to compete satisfactorily with others of their age who are brighter. This book offers abundant practical help to both parents and teachers. The authors are widely experienced in this special field.

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MUSIC FOR FAMILY FUN, by Harriot Buxton Barbour. Pp. 174, price $3.95 from E. P. Dutton & Co., 300 Park ave. South, New York 10, N.Y., 1961.

This is a much-needed book, to encourage parents in the development of children's musical tastes, and the corresponding enrichment of their lives. No one, says the author, really appreciates music who has not made a little himself, even if it is the sort described by the psalmist as "a cheerful noise." Miss Barbour is an experienced music teacher, member of the faculty of the Cape Cod Conservatory of music and arts.

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YOU'LL LIVE THROUGH IT, by Miriam Lincoln. New and enlarged 2d ed., Pp. 221 (no index), price $3.50 from Harper & Bros., 49 E. 33d st., New York 16, N.Y., 1961.

First appearing in 1950, this book has been deservedly popular and is now somewhat revised with a new chapter on the detection of cancer and on keeping physically fit, with suggestions for diet. Whether the lack of an index is due to laziness or skimpiness on the part of the publisher, it is no credit to him. Dr. Lincoln practiced internal medicine in Seattle until her recent retirement.

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TASMANIAN Marriage Guidance Centre is now open at 189a Liverpool st., Hobart, Tasmania, supported in part by a financial grant from the government.

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by Paul Popenoe, Sc.D.....$3.95

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